

State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

and

NATIONAL DAY OF UNITY

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pattern of control in an intimate relationship where one person uses coercion and violence to gain power and control over their partner; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence includes not only physical abuse, but also mental abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, isolation, and sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, women of all races and socioeconomic backgrounds are vulnerable to violence by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, according to a Commonwealth Fund Survey, nearly 1/3 (31 percent) of American women report being raped and/or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, partner, or date at some time in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, on average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this country every day, according to the US Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, according to the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, in North Carolina alone, over 500 women, men, and children have been murdered as a result of domestic violence since January 1, 2002; and

WHEREAS, NC ranked 11th in the nation for the number of per capita homicides committed by men against women in 2005, up from a ranking of 15th the year before, according to the Violence Policy Center; and

WHEREAS, according to the Women's Institute for Leadership Development for Human Rights, high rates of poverty, poor education, limited job resources, language barriers, and fear of deportation increase the difficulty in finding help and support services for women of color; and

WHEREAS, according to the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, understanding all forms of oppression will lead to the social change necessary for the elimination of the institutional, cultural, and individual oppressions that contribute to domestic violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 2008, as "DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH" and October 1, 2008, as "NATIONAL DAY OF UNITY" in North Carolina. I further urge our citizens to increase their awareness and education of this destructive force which deeply affects a large number of families in our state each year and to become part of the efforts to stop violence in families.




MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh, North Carolina, on the 26th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the hundred and thirty-third.